



CHAPTER SIX: SECTS OF BUDDHISM

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SCHOOLS



<http://www.geocities.com/smilesbuddha/buddha.JPG>

- Buddhism is split into two main schools: Theravada and Mahayana.
- Theravada means “teachings of the elders” but has been referred to as the “lesser vehicle” (hinayana)
- Mahayana means “greater vehicle”

THERAVADA

- Theravada believes in strictly following the *tipitaka*.
- They believe they follow the original teachings of Buddha more closely.
- Many people are able to be monks for a time, and it is seen as a rite of passage.



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MAHAYANA

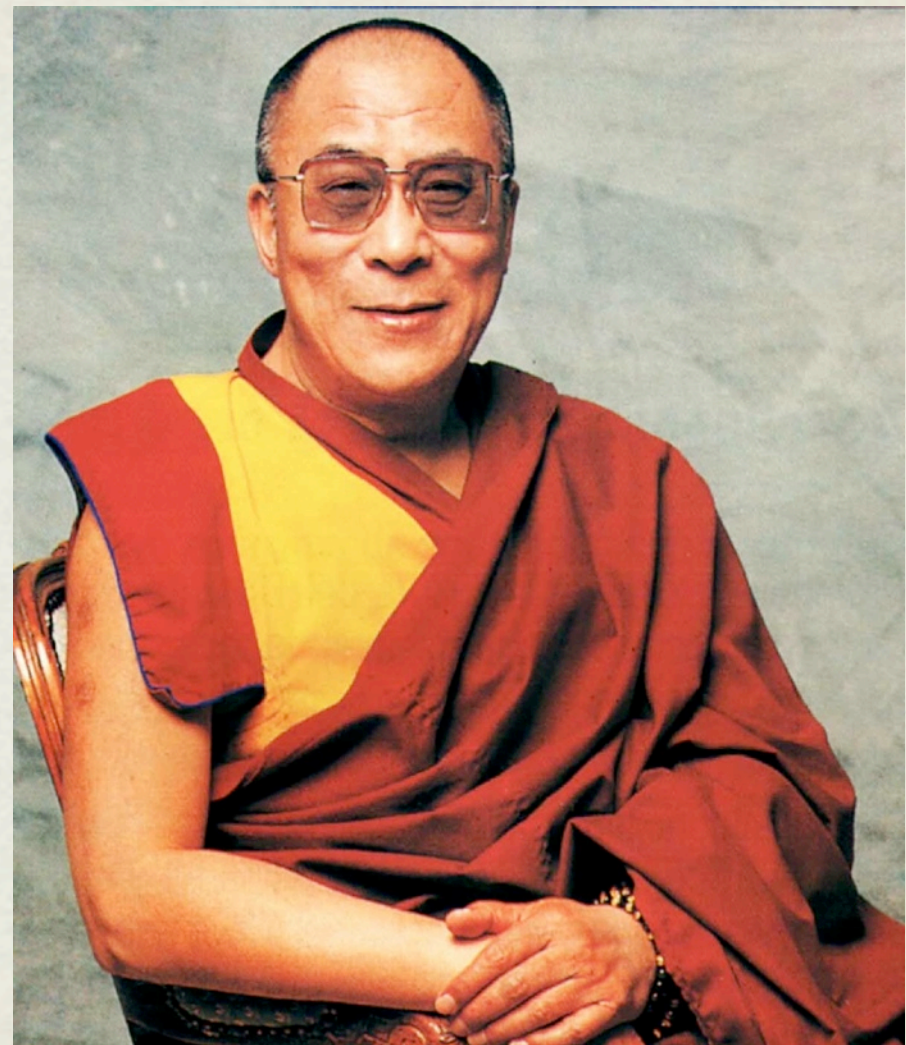


<http://www.textile-art.com/dunimages/bodhisattva.gif>

- Mahayana has many different sects, with varying beliefs.
- One firm belief is that all people should help others, because they may have known them in a past life.
- Mahayana Buddhists believe in *Bodhisattvas*, or people who reach enlightenment and remain in this world to help others.

TANTRIC

- It's typically practiced in Tibet and Nepal.
- Tibetan and Buddhist beliefs were combined, so it's very different than most types of Buddhism.
- They believe in a high priest known as the "Dalai Lama" who is believed to be the bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara.



<http://www.hollywoodtoday.net/wp-content/uploads/2008/05/dalailama.JPG>

ZEN



[http://www.sacred-destinations.com/japan/
images/kyoto/daitokuji/rock-garden2-cc-
noshadows.jpg](http://www.sacred-destinations.com/japan/images/kyoto/daitokuji/rock-garden2-cc-noshadows.jpg)

- Zen is also known as ‘Chán’ Buddhism and is split into Soto and Rinzai Zen, Soto being the more common of the two.
- It stresses meditation, and people in the Rinzai school would often shout at or beat each other to test their concentration.
- Zen Buddhists don’t believe in relying strictly on scripture.

PURE LAND BUDDHISM

- Pure Land is a sect formed in Japan, also called Jodo-shu.
- It's a variation of Buddhism that believes in a sort of heaven, or the Pure Land, ruled by a Buddha called Amida.



<http://www.geocities.com/ryunyo/triad.jpg>

The End



Onward to chapter seven...

